**Term of Reference**

**Position title:** Payment Structuring Researcher (Intern)

**Programme title:** UNREDD Viet Nam Programme

**Starting date:** May 2010

**Duty station:** Project Office, Hanoi and field locations

**Duration:** 3 months

**Supervision:** National Programme Director and Regional Coordinator (UNDP)

**Background**

The Viet Nam UN-REDD Programme will address complexities of developing REDD+ readiness in Viet Nam through capacity building at two levels. Firstly (Outcome 1), it will build capacity at the national level to permit the Government of Viet Nam, and especially the REDD+ focal point, the DoF in MARD, to coordinate and manage the process of establishing tools to implement a REDD+ programme that provides an effective, transparent and equitable system of demonstrating real and measurable reductions in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and transferring international payments for carbon conservation to local stakeholders in relation to performance standards. Secondly (Outcome 2), it will build capacity at the local level through pilots in two districts in Lam Dong province that demonstrate effective approaches to planning and implementing measures to reduce emissions, including participatory monitoring of C-stocks, and ensure fair and equitable distribution of benefits. The third Outcome of the UN-REDD programme will generate information to help identify what role REDD+ might play in reducing regional leakage of emissions from forests.

One of the initial activities of the UN-REDD Programme in Viet Nam was to undertake an analysis of the issues to be addressed in establishing a REDD+ compliant Benefit Distribution System. Among the conclusions of this study were:

* Payment structuring at the local level should take account of local land tenureship arrangements
* Payments to households (as under the 661 Programme and pilot PFES) are not necessarily appropriate for REDD+; however, payments to entities such as communities is complicated by the non-recognition of “community” under the Civil Code
* Arrangements for payments linked to performance will need to be established
* Transparent and participatory instruments will be needed to manage REDD+ revenues at all levels

These issues (and others) require further analysis and investigation. The intern will undertake targeted research under the supervision of the NPD and UN-REDD Regional Coordinator (UNDP); and the research guidance of Dr. Thomas Sikor and Dr. Nguyen Quang Tan.

**Objectives**:

(Subject to further review)

The objective of the assignment is to examine to potential of “conditional cash transfers” (CCTs) as a tool for performance-related payments in the legal, political and socio-economic context of Viet Nam. The research will result in recommendations concerning policy, legal, and/or administrative measures required to allow effective application of CCTs in a REDD+ compliant Benefit Distribution System.

**Methodology**:

(Still under development)

The intern will:

* Review existing documentation, including the UN-REDD BDS report, evaluation reports of the 661 programme, the KfW Community Forest Management projects, and the FLITCH project, in order to assess past and current experiences with CCTs in Viet Nam
* Meet with and interview key personnel involved in the initiatives generating the above-listed documents (and others, as required) to gain further insights into CCT experiences and challenges
* Meet with and interview legal experts to identify options to overcome any legal challenges (such as the non-recognition of “community” in the Civil Code
* Undertake targeted field visits to interview local stakeholders concerning their experiences with CCTs and other benefit distribution system payment approaches
* Prepare a draft report summarizing initial conclusion of the research
* Organize a workshop to discuss initial conclusions and to generate additional ideas or comments
* Undertake additional work as required to address ideas emerging from the workshop
* Prepare a final report, in the form of a Master’s thesis

**3.** **SUPERVISION, TEAMWORK AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

The intern will be supervised on a daily basis by the National Programme Director. The UN-REDD Regional Coordinator (UNDP) will provide additional support, especially during the absence of the NPD. Academic and research guidance will be provided by Dr. Thomas Sikor, and locally by Dr. Nguyen Quang Tan.